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Spies Allegedly Duped Hoover

By Philip Agee

NEW YORK—Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was duped over a period of years by a Soviet KGB intelligence agent determined to "Fedora," when he offered his services to the FBI in 1952 but was deliberately "providing" the FBI director with "information," according to an article in this issue of New York magazine released yesterday.

The article, which deals with "moles," or high-level counter-agents imbedded in rival intelligence organizations, is based on an upcoming book by Edward Lee Epstein, the author of "Thirteen," which 13 years ago severely criticized the Warren Commission and its report.

EDM now back, "Agee" claims that Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, was recruited by the Soviet KGB in Japan in the late 1950s, whereas a March Oswald worked as a radio operator at the KGB's U.S. base. It also specifies that Oswald spied for CIA information to the Soviets which they used in the interpretation of the late Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot who was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960.

After Oswald's story to Edwards, the KGB by this account constructed a "legend," or cover story, that would hide his KGB connections.

"The Soviets never intended for Oswald to kill President Kennedy. But, when he did, they sent a fake defector, Ted Epstein, to the United States to tell a story that would corroborate Oswald's legend," according to the controversial article, which reads like an "atmospheric" deflating of John Le Carre spy novel plot.

Nossovka, Epstein alleges, approached the Central Intelligence Agency in Geneva in January 1964, immediately following Kennedy's assassination, claiming he was the KGB officer who had reprogrammed Oswald's "defector" biography upon his return to Russia.

Nossovka "stated categorically that Oswald had had no dealings with the KGB" and then asked to be allowed to defect because he claimed the KGB "knew" of his CIA contacts and therefore would kill him if he returned to Russia.

The CIA brought him to the United States. Even his status as an Oswald witness (no information was presented to the Warren Commission) but it never checked out Nossovka's "legend" through "Fedora," who was the FBI's double agent.

Fedora confirmed Nossovka's claims, Epstein says. But when the CIA discovered inconsistencies in Nossovka's story, the agency suspected that Fedora had also been deliberately supplying false information, including the fake-cover story.

Nossovka was subjected to intensive CIA interrogation, according to Epstein, because the agency had been warned earlier by another Soviet defector, Maj. Anatoli Golitsin, a senior KGB officer, "that the Soviets had planted one mole deep within the CIA and another within the FBI with the objectives of promoting and advancing them to positions of leadership in American intelligence." However, Nossovka never significantly changed his story.

Epstein says he extensively interviewed Hoover's deputy director, William C. Sullivan, who died last year in a hunting accident, and Powers, who died last year in a helicopter crash, along with 200 other witnesses, in gathering data for the book, which is supposed to trace Oswald's connections to Soviet and Cuban intelligence agencies as well as the CIA.

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